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based upon them. The formulas are such as can be sufficiently explained by the teacher in a few moments to enable the pupil to feel that, in solving his problem, he is using algebra to get the answer to a real question.

This book will be found satisfactory as a guide to a course of the stereotyped sort but it makes little or no contribution to the improvement of the teaching of algebra.

*First Course in Algebra.* By WEBSTER WELLS. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co., 1908. Pp. 232. \$1.00.

The distinctive characteristic of this book is its small size. It is intended to be a first-year course but, while it covers all the topics ordinarily treated in the first year, there are several which are better suited to the second year. It is hardly a half-inch thick and may be very readily carried in the pocket. Those who are troubled by the weight of the book-bags carried by our high-school pupils will welcome this step toward compactness. The book in general follows the beaten track. There is an unusual number of problems based on geometric figures and several good problems drawn from physics are introduced. Several handsome plates in colors illustrate graphical methods, but few teachers, I think, will agree that first-year high-school students require the aid of color-schemes to understand simple graphical problems. For a first-year course of the usual sort this book is well adapted and, in comparison with a large number of similar books, it has the merit of compactness.

WILLIAM E. STARK

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## BOOKS RECEIVED

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### EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY

*Education in the Far East.* By CHARLES F. THWING. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1909. Pp. 277. \$1.50.

*Teaching Children to Study.* The Group System Applied. By OLIVE M. JONES, ELEANOR G. LEARY, AND AGNES E. QUISH. New York: Macmillan, 1909. Pp. 193. \$0.80.

*The Mental Man.* An Outline of the Fundamentals of Psychology. By GUSTAV GOTTLIEB WENZLAFF. New York: Charles E. Merrill Co., 1909. Pp. 272. \$1.10.

*Teaching to Read.* By JAMES L. HUGHES. New York: A. S. Barnes & Co., 1909. Pp. 124. \$0.50.

*A History of the Teaching of Elementary Geometry.* With Reference to Present-Day Problems. By ALVA WALKER STAMPER. "Columbia University Contributions to Education" (Teachers College Series) No. 23. Pp. 163. New York: Columbia University.